

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 150

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor Kenneth Arnold “Kenny” Chesney.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor those individuals who, through their extraordinary talents and generous spirits, improve their communities and the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary individual is country superstar Kenneth Arnold “Kenny” Chesney, an eight-time Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music Entertainer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, an incredibly talented singer and songwriter, Kenny Chesney has recorded sixteen albums, thirteen of which were certified gold or higher; produced thirty Top 10 singles on the *U.S. Billboard* Hot Country Songs charts, twenty-two of which climbed to the top of the charts; and sold more than thirty million albums worldwide; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to his mass public appeal, Kenny Chesney won the *Billboard* Touring Award for Top Package Tour five consecutive years between 2005 and 2009, and again in 2011. His newest tour, dubbed *The Big Revival Tour*, begins on March 26, 2015, and will include ten stadium shows during the summer of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chesney’s singular musical talents and popularity among his fans and peers are unrivaled, as is his dedication to public service through numerous philanthropic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Chesney lends his time, talents, and generous donations as an honorary board member of the Building Conservation Trust and the national marine habitat program of the Coastal Conservation Association, which aim to revitalize critical habitat and

establish a vibrant foundation for the marine ecosystem. He established also the Spread the Love Fund to benefit post-acute care for victims of the Boston Marathon bombings; and

WHEREAS, he is a regular performer for Farm Aid events, an organization to keep family farms from foreclosure; works with the V Foundation, which strives to find a cure for cancer; and recorded a limited-edition single titled "Touchdown Tennessee," which benefited St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the John Ward Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, born on March 26, 1968, in East Tennessee, Kenny Chesney is the son of David Chesney and Karen Chandler, and he has a younger sister, Jennifer Chandler. He graduated from Gibbs High School, where he played baseball and football, and received his first guitar, "The Terminor," for Christmas, upon which he taught himself to play; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Kenny Chesney recorded a self-released demonstration album, of which he sold 1,000 copies while performing at local clubs in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Mr. Chesney graduated from East Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in advertising; he was a member of the University's Bluegrass program and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity; upon graduation, he moved to Nashville, where he performed in several local clubs before becoming a resident performer at The Turf, a bar in the city's historic district; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Chesney's first album, *In My Wildest Dreams*, was released in 1994 on the independent Capricorn Records label and sold 10,000 copies. He signed with BNA Records and released his second album, *All I Need to Know*, in 1995, with the title track and "Fall in Love" both reaching the Top 10; his second major-label album, *Me and You*, released in 1996, was also his first gold-certified album, with the title track and "When I Close My Eyes" both peaking at No. 2 on the *Billboard* country charts; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, *I Will Stand* produced Kenny Chesney's first No. 1 single, "She's Got It All," which spent three weeks at the top of the *Billboard* country charts; *Everywhere We Go* was Mr. Chesney's first platinum-selling album and produced two consecutive No. 1 singles, "How Forever Feels" and "You Had Me from Hello"; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Kenny Chesney released his *Greatest Hits* compilation album, and *No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems* followed in 2002, from which “Young” peaked at No. 2 and “The Good Stuff” spent seven weeks at No. 1, becoming *Billboard’s* No. 1 country song of the year for 2002; the video for “Young” was honored by Country Music Television (CMT) with Video of the Year and Male Video of the Year awards in 2002; and

WHEREAS, *When the Sun Goes Down*, featuring “There Goes My Life,” which spent seven weeks at the top of the *Billboard* country charts, won the 2004 Country Music Association (CMA) award for Album of the Year, while Mr. Chesney was honored as Entertainer of the Year and received the American Music Awards (AMA) 2004 Artist of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Kenny Chesney released *Be As You Are*, received the prestigious Triple-Crown Award presented by the Academy of Country Music, and, the following year, was presented with his second Entertainer of the Year award at the Academy of Country Music Awards. His album *The Road and the Radio* produced five singles that broke the Top 5, three of which reached No. 1; and

WHEREAS, in November 2007, Mr. Chesney was named CMA Entertainer of the Year for the third time in four years; his album *Just Who I Am: Poets and Pirates* featured “Never Wanted Nothing More,” which became his twelfth song to hit the top of the *Billboard* country charts; and “Don’t Blink” debuted at No. 16 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, *Lucky Old Sun* was released, featuring the No. 1 hit “Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven,” while “The Boys of Fall” from Kenny Chesney’s album *Hemingway’s Whiskey* hit No. 1 on the Hot Country Songs chart, marking his eighteenth No. 1 hit; “Somewhere With You,” “Live a Little,” and “Reality” also went to No. 1, while “You and Tequila” reached No. 3; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chesney released *Welcome to the Fishbowl* in 2012, featuring a duet with Tim McGraw titled “Feel Like a Rock Star,” which debuted at No. 13 on the country charts, while the album’s second single, “Come Over,” went to No. 1; and

WHEREAS, *Life on a Rock*, released in 2012, and *The Big Revival*, released in 2013, featured such hits as “Pirate Flag,” “When I See This Bar,” “American Kids,” “Til It’s Gone,” and “Wild Child”; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, he produced and narrated a biographical film, *The Color Orange*, on his favorite football player growing up, University of Tennessee quarterback and Canadian Football League Hall-of-Famer Condredge Holloway; the film was produced for ESPN's "Year of the Quarterback" series; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honor and commend Kenny Chesney for his professional achievements and personal excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Kenneth Arnold "Kenny" Chesney for his singular contributions to the music industry; commend him for his estimable service to the people of this State, this nation, and the world; and extend to him our best wishes for his continued success in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.